

A

REVIEW OF THE Affairs of FRANCE:

With Observations on TRANSACTIONS at Home.

Saturday, May 12. 1705.

THE Nice Distinction between a *Tacker*, and a *Moderate Tacker*, being the Learned Opinion of a certain Clergyman, not far in Principle from the *Vicar of Brag*, I confess to be a Mystery past my Understanding, and the Moderation of a *Tacker*, seems to me to merit a Place in my Lord *Rochester's Poem upon Nothing*.

At best, it merits much more to be Explain'd, than Her Majesty's Speech at the Close of the last Parliament, which some People pretend not to understand; and of this, besides what I have said elsewhere, I think this is plain, Her Majesty could mean none but the *Tackers*, because this Nation knows of no other Dangerous Experiment any other Party has made; from which the Nation has made a Narrow Escape, and which was occasion'd by our Unreasonable Humours and Animosities.

I am not for making Distinctions of Names, I wish they were all Buried in the Grave of that Assembly, in which this new Qualification of a *Burgoyer of England* was first Contriv'd; but 'tis a most absolutely necessary thing, that while I am moving all Men to Peace, I should warn them against those that set themselves to raine our Peace.

And yet even of those Gentlemen, who in the Service of their Country, have been so Unhappily Mistaken, upon their Senes of the Error

ana quitting the Folly and Mischief of the Design, I would be for persuading all Honest Men to forget it, I have always said, I am not for Black Lists, and Ballads upon them; I am not for recording their Names to Posterity, which I look upon a Method to Exasperate Men rather than reform them; let the Memory of the Action, and of the Persons, fall and drop with time, that they may see the Folly and Reform.

Tis true, I am not for Choosing them again, I am not for putting Power into their Hands again to Destroy us, I am for no Trust to be put into their Hands, I cannot allow them fit for that, at least till they have given good Demonstrations of their Penitence and Reforming.

But I am for passing by the Attempt, it was a Vile one indeed, and for which we must say, it was a strange Parliament; but it was a most Contemptible, Blind, Ridiculous Project; and the Folly of it, without doubt, gave a handle to some that had more Wit, in the House, to put them upon it, as the only thing that could be expected to raine their Cause.

I have now some Replies to what has been advanc'd on this Head, to Engage with; and the first, at least the most material, is a Knocking-Down Argument.

Well, says the Opponent, you may say what you will, and Print what you will, but you see the Country is of another Opinion, and in Spight of all your

Party, the Tackers will come in again; when there was not above Ten Members chosen, Five of them were Tackers.

First of all, if it be true, the worse for *England*, the worse for the General Peace, the farther off our Settlement, Union and Tranquility, seems to be; and God Almighty, in his Providence, sees us yet unfit for Deliverance. The News is not so good, that any Man should rejoice at it; the *English* Men that shut their Eyes against their own Peace, are not one jott the Wiser for it; if the People will pull their own Destruction upon their Heads, in Spight of Reflection, contrary to all the Rules of Reason and Common Discretion, contrary to the Light and Convictions of their own Understanding, 'tis Impossible for *Humane* Art to save such.

Perhaps the 134 have some other yet more preposterous Things to act, some more Miracles of Impenetrable Politicks to work, before the Nation will be Universally Enlightned; they must, perhaps, yet Expose themselves farther, and we will not see our Safety, till these Gentlemen Drive us to it, by some yet more prodigious Attempt, something that shall give our Constitution such a Shock, as shall startle the whole Nation, and put them into *Revolution* *Fits*.

Who knows what Desperate Remedy this Inveterate Distemper must have to work the Cure? What Amputation of Members, in this Compound Fracture? What Fluxings? What Searing the Coroded Mischiefs will call for.

All I can say to it is, I am sorry the healing Cordials of Love, Charity, Peace, and Neighbourly Gentleman like Civilities, will not work it—I am not Physician enough to apply farther Remedies.

But this I must say, if ever this Evil be run up to Extremities, if ever *Tacking Principles* bring us into that Confusion, if ever the Attempt upon the *English* Liberties be openly pul'd at, I am fully perswaded the People of *England*, in Defence of their Just Right, and the Privileges Deriv'd to them from their Ancestors, will be the Destruction of all that shall attempt to Dispossess them of that Liberty.

Toleration and Succession, are the two things before us, and I own, I am in no fear for them, tho' the whole 134 were in the House again, which I don't believe will be true neither.

If it be reply'd, *What do you make so much noise about then? If you are not afraid of the Loss of your Toleration and Succession?* I Answer.

First, I am in no fear for the meer Difference between the Invaders and Defenders of *English* Liberties at Home.

But if we are Embroil'd here at Home, while we are at War Abroad; if by putting Gross and Illegal Affronts upon one another; if by the Constitution Jangling with it self, we are Disbanded from the War, the Confederacy broke, the Protestant Interest Abroad run down, the *Dutch* ruin'd, and the *French* Victorious. Pardon me, Gentlemen, I won't Answer for the People of *England* then, when Universal Monarchy is obtain'd; and *Europe* submits to the Tyranny of the *House of Bourbon*, who are we to resist? What Proportion can this little Spot bear to the Triumphant Powers of Popery and *French* Government.

I know there are some among us, that are Vain enough to think we are able to Beat the whole World; and Mr. ——, who is since, I suppose, of another Opinion, has often Greeted us with his Notion, in the following Terms: *What signifies Leagues and Confederacies, Armies, and Red coats? Let us Unite, let us take Care of our Wooden Walls, and we need not value all the World.*

These are *Arguments* indeed, and talking big may be useful some times; but if the Gentlemen were to ask the Soldiers, they will tell them another Tale; nay, even the Admirals of our Fleet would give another Answer.

A Nation may be Invaded, in spight of a great Fleet, and an Enemy may Land an Army, when our Fleet's remote, Land lock'd, Wind-bound, and a hundred things.

Why do these Gentlemen Applaud the Victory of *Blenheim*? Why call the Duke of *Marlborough* Hero, if there is no need of our Army, and we are able to Fight the whole World? But these things are too wild, to need any Debate of here.

'Tis vain to flatter our selves with our own Figure, we are no other sort of People than our Neighbours; *English* Men are *Brave Fellows*, our Neighbours will own it, and there are few better; but they are but Men, they are no Monsters, their Bullets fly no farther than others, and they can do no more Miracles than other Nations.

Do not be Angry, Gentlemen, when I say, we are not able to Fight all the World, and carry a War on against *France*, after he has Conquer'd all the rest of the Confederates.

From

From these Considerations, 'tis a Consequence, that it is our Busines to support the Confederacy, to joyn Hands and assist them as they do us; and as this Tacking the Bill, would have so Embroil'd us at Home, as to have Disabled us from coming into the Field, have Crippl'd our Preparations, and forced us to abandon our own Interest, so far it was fatal and considerable, and this way, indeed, we may say, the *Tackers* may undoe us.

Were we free from a War Abroad, I confess, I should be in no Apprehension; from the worst Attempt that could be made upon the *English Liberties*; who ever heav'd at them, would be Crush'd with their Weight, and *it were as good for him that a Mill stone were hung about his Neck, and he were cast into the Sea*: Kings have in vain attempted it, and it has prov'd their Destruction; Favourites have attempted them, till the Nation has toss'd them out of their Seats, and sent them to the D——, as a Man sends a Stone out of a Sling.

Nay, Parliaments have attempted it, till they found themselves Confounded and Embarrass'd, and forc'd to restore things to stand as they found them, and to Write upon the Constitution the same Motto that the Scripture gives us of the Gospel, *Other Foundation can no Man lay*.

I fear nothing, for *English Liberties*, if we are not Betray'd to Foreign Power, Absolute Conquest, and Innumerable Invaders; but while bringing us into Confusion at Home, will open the Door of Death to Armies of Devils from Abroad, I must be allow'd to see Danger in it.

If then the Parliament, M—— M——, lately gone Home with so much Contempt, so justly reprehended by their Sovereign, and so past all possibility of Defence, branded with an Attempt absolutely Destructive to our Safety, must come again; if the Country is so Distracted, as to Choose these People again, as it seems some are afraid they will.

Then, Gentlemen, thank your selves, if you are brought into all the Confusions and ill Consequences of the last Attempt; What could the Queen do more than by telling you, *That Peace at Home, is the only way to save us*; and telling you, *What a Narrow Escape you had made from these Men before*; give you Directions, as well as an Opportunity, to Choose Men of another Principle: What can be said, or done more?

The old *English Saying*, will be exceedingly illustrated in you, *That England can never be ruin'd, but by our selves*.

As in Religion, there is no greater Judgment from God, can attend a Man, than to be forsaken of his Maker, and left to the Gust of his Corrupted Soul: So in Politicks, no greater Mischief can attend a State, than to be fond of those that will Betray us. How many Princes have been Ruin'd in the World, for Embracing Obstinate the Favourites of their own Fancy; Blind to their Errors, when the People they Govern, have humbly represented their Ministers, and most Dangerous Designs.

If, Gentlemen, you will be Blind to your own Hazards, if you will shut your Eyes against your Reason, your Interest, and your Safety; if you will put your Liberty to Men that love Bondage, if you will commit this Knife into the Hands of Mad Men, Trust your Peace with Men of Rashness and Diliriums, never call your selves *English Men*, never talk of Laws and Constitutions, never talk of Privileges again; Embrace your own Bondage with the same Supine Ease, that you give up your Liberty; and when your Children ask you, How it came to pass, that their Grandfathers were Freemen, and they Born Slaves? Tell them honestly, because their Fathers were Fools.

Fools, that abandon'd by their Senses, chose a parcel of M—— M—— to represent them in Parliament, who, when they had once attempted to Dissolve the Constitution, by Invading the Liberties of the Lords, and taking away the Prerogative of the Prince, Wheedled them in to send them up again, with Power to perfect that Mischief they had first miscarry'd, and after having been cast out, return'd with Authority to show themselves tenfold more the Children of Bondage than they were before.

In short, if such are Chos'd again, *England is Undone*; farewell *Tolerance*, farewell *Protestant Succession*, farewell Queen, farewell Religion, farewell Nation, for no Honest Man ought to stay in it; Confusion of Council, Overthrowing of Privileges, Innundation of Villanies must succeed, the Kingdom will become an *Aceland*, a Field of Blood, Darkness, and Distress; and the whole Constitution be set with its Bottom upward; all the Violences, all the Inconsistent Absurdities, all the Arbitrary Excesses that an Unlimited, Angry, and Exasperated Party can show, may be expected, and the Dangerous Experiment

Experiment being to be made again, you must not expect a second Escape.

THE Reader is desir'd to Correct the following Errors. In *Review*, N. 26. P. ult. for *Hell's an Ajs*, read *Hell's a Fest.* N. 28. P. 109. col. 2. l. 1. read it for is. P. 110. col. 1. l. 4. for *Sense* read *Senses*, *ibid.* l. 17. for *as* read *as*. P. 111. col. 1. last line but two, for *puzzle* read *put*. *ibid.* col. 2. l. 9. for *Law* read *Sawy.* N. 29. for *Impartiality* read *Partiality*

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